

*Thomas Blount to John Gray Blount*PHIL^a. 30th May 1794

Dear Sir,

Mr. Barr has favored me with the inclosed prices Current from which I persuade myself you will think it adviseable to send the Sloop here with a Cargo—Tar & Rosin which I suppose you can at any time command, will answer very well—it will also be an object perhaps to Send your Coffee here that Article is now worth 18^d P^{lb} a head for the Tooley cannot be done in less than 3 or four weeks however I have, in consequence of your Success in getting the Russell back on such good Terms order'd it & the price will be tween 30 & 40 Dollars—the Embargo was not renewed for the reason I stated to you in my last & on the day after it expired upwards of 70 Sail of Vessels sailed from this port chiefly for the West Indies which I already consider lost for Great Britain is at this time more openly hostile towards us than she was before the Embargo was laid—Gen^l. Simcoe has gone with 3 Companies of British Infantry to the fort of the Miami Rapids for the avowed purpose of erecting a Fort there Which Mr. Hammond⁵⁴ seems more willing to justify than explain, & under these circumstances our Hope of avoiding War seems to rest wholly on the existing State of Things in Europe which, if it is as favorable to France as our last accounts from there indicate, may & probably will dispose the British King & Court to accede to the proposition of our Envoy who will, it [2] is expected, arrive there at a favorable moment especially if it should be true that the Kings of Prussia & Spain have withdrawn from the general alliance & acknowledged the French Republic as from our latest accounts from Europe we find some reason to infer Gen^l. [Gouverneur] Morris is recalled from France & Col. [James] Munro of the Senate from the State of Virg^a. appointed to succeed him—Mr. Short is also appointed Successor to Mr. Carmichael at the Court of Madrid⁵⁵—The proposed Land Tax & Stamp duties are rejected but all other Taxes & Duties proposed by the Committee of Ways & means (some of which involve important Constitutional questions) are in a fair way to be adopted—There is before the

⁵⁴George Hammond, the first English minister to the United States. He became so committed to Alexander Hamilton's views that the influence of his ministry was somewhat restricted.

⁵⁵William Carmichael. See Letters for 1791-1792, page 180*n*. 35, above. William Short who succeeded him also had an interesting political career. *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVII (1935), 128-129.